



## Table of Contents

---

Welcome from  
Missouri Women's Council  
**Page 2**

---

Economic News  
**Page 3**

---

Women Business  
Mentor Protégé  
Success Story  
**Page 4 & 5**

---

Missouri Women Owned Busi-  
ness Success Story  
**Page 6 & 7**

---

Business Trainings & Job Fairs  
**Page 8 & 9**

---

In Every Issue:  
Business Resources  
Women Resources  
**Page 10 & 11**

---

Upcoming Events  
**Page 12**

---



# July 2010 Women's Edition

Mission statement:

"The mission of the Missouri Women's Council is to promote the economic success of Missouri women by connecting them to information and resources"



Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon  
Governor



David Kerr  
Director  
Department of Economic Development



Michelle J. Word  
Missouri Women's Council  
Chair

Michelle J. Word is the manager of Supplier Diversity for Burns & McDonnell. She has been with the company for five years and is developer of the company's supplier diversity procedures and policies. She is responsible for ensuring the company locates, utilizes and develops diverse businesses.

She also works externally to educate prospective suppliers and subcontractors about Burns & McDonnell's supplier diversity objectives and project participation. She is also responsible for internal education of project managers, procurement personnel and others in the company about the importance of cultivating and maintaining a diverse supplier base and methods to achieve this objective.

Welcome!

On the behalf of the Missouri Women's Council, we hope you find the current women's edition helpful in improving your economic success.

This 1st Women's Edition is intended to connect you to resources and information regarding business, workforce and other organizations.

Going forward, we remain committed to offering women entrepreneurs awareness and exciting opportunities for business expansion and development.

It is an honor to serve the Missouri women across this great state.

Please remember...this is YOUR council.



Lisa B. Althoff  
Missouri Women's Council  
Executive Director

Lisa B. Althoff is the Executive Director of the Missouri Women's Council.

She is responsible for implementing programs initiated by the council. She also works to connect women business owners and women in the workforce to information and resources.

She has received her Masters in Business Administration from William Woods University. During her undergraduate program, she was appointed to the Women's Leadership Academy which focuses on the preparation of talented women for the workforce and for future leadership roles. She is a graduate of the Sue Shear Institute Women's Leadership Academy and a former intern of the Missouri Women's Council.



# Economic News You Can Use



## **2010 Summer Jobs Program**

Governor Nixon announces a summer jobs program that will provide on-the-job training and work experience with top-notch employers across the state. Please [click here for more information](#).



## **WorkReadyMissouri**

Governor Nixon launched a **WorkReadyMissouri** program to help businesses train potential employees at no cost, and help job seekers who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits to connect with businesses and organizations looking for skilled workers. [Click here for more information](#).

## **NEW Missouri Career Guide Released**

This guide was developed through a partnership of state agencies to help Missourians of all ages, genders, and backgrounds create personal career plans that lead to fulfillment and success. [Please click here to view the new career guide](#).

## **Governor Nixon's Small Business Loan Program**

Through Gov. Nixon's Small Business Loan Program, Missouri businesses with five employees or fewer may apply for loans of between \$2,500 and \$25,000. The loans are typically repaid over a ten-year term and at a low interest rate of 3 percent. The program's process requires the submission of a business plan by eligible applicants. One of Gov. Nixon's first acts upon taking office was the issuance of Executive Order 09-03, which instructed the **Missouri Department of Economic Development** and the **Missouri Development Finance Board** to create a tool for giving small businesses access to low-interest loans to help them through challenging economic conditions. The Governor signed this order on Jan. 13, his first full day in office. Missouri businesses wishing to apply for one of the loans can go online to [www.ded.mo.gov/MOloan/index.htm](http://www.ded.mo.gov/MOloan/index.htm) to download an application.



## **Show-Me Heroes**

### **Take the Pledge. Hire a Vet.**

Governor Nixon launched the 'Show-Me Heroes' initiative to showcase Missouri businesses that are willing to hire Veterans returning from the world's battlefields. For more information, please [click here](#).



## **NEW—Missouri's Guide to good opportunities in green careers**

Missouri has identified six sectors in its Green Economy. Workers in these sectors and other with traditional workforce skills may need to acquire additional knowledge and skills about Green practices to become an active participant in the Green Economy. To view full report, [please click here](#).

## **Department of Economic Development releases May 2010 State Job's Report**

Missouri's unemployment rate fell to 9.3 percent, down by two-tenths of a point from the revised April figure of 9.5 on a seasonally-adjusted basis. Overall, the state's nonfarm payroll employment increased by 4,900 jobs. The state has now seen employment gains of 31,000 jobs in the past four months. To view full press release, please [click here](#).

## **Older Worker of the Year**

Missouri's annual Older Worker of the Year contest seeks to honor a Missouri resident who is 65 or older, employed at least 20 hours a week, and displays dependability and new skills on the job. The winner and regional finalists will be recognized at a two-day awards ceremony in September in Jefferson City. For more information, [click here](#).



**Bright  
Idea**

## **Pay It Forward:**

Please share information about the Missouri Women's Council with your contacts.





# Women Owned Business Mentor-Protégé Success Story The Gown Gallery & Hallmark, Inc.



## Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship

The mentorship is a fee-based member only program that creates and promotes economic independence and wealth among minority and women-owned businesses by connecting them to business consultants from mature local businesses in a three-year mentorship relationship. With MBA staff guidance, mentee businesses identify measurable and critical issues hindering growth, then a mentor is identified who can specifically address these critical issues, and mentee businesses are monitored through a structured system of accountability. To learn more about the HAJ Business Mentorship, please [click here](#).

**2010 HAJ Business  
Mentorship Graduates  
increased revenues by  
89% and jobs by 52%**

Three years ago, five minority-owned businesses committed themselves to making their businesses better, more efficient, and just plain awesome!

The parent program of the Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship, POWER (Partnering Organizations With Essential Resources) was created to promote economic independence and wealth in minority communities and enhance the business and economic development of minority businesses in Greater Kansas City. After completing the three-year program, businesses that participate in the mentorship show substantial signs of growth, sustainability, and unyielding credibility with larger companies in and outside of the metro area. **In 2009, POWER expanded its scope to include women-owned businesses in the Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship as well.**

The Gown Gallery, a leading bridal and formal wear boutique in Kansas City, was one of the five businesses committed to improving their business by participating in the HAJ Business mentorship. The timing could not have been better considering the Gown Gallery, owned by Sharon Miller, had been destroyed by a fire. The HAJ Business mentorship program was essential in helping The Gown Gallery recover from the destruction of the fire. Sharon Miller was paired with her mentor Julie Lonergan from Hallmark Cards, Inc. Both Sharon and Julie had an immediate connection and formed a strong friendship as a basis to a great working relationship.

Over the past 3 years the Gown Gallery owner, Sharon Miller and Julie Lonergan with Hallmark Cards, Inc. worked on all aspects of The Gown Gallery's business including:

- Staffing
- Organizational Structure
- Building sales plans and incentive plans for her team
- Building P & L statements (profit & loss) with financial goals to keep her business growing (both revenue and profit)
- Store design





# Women Owned Business Mentor-Protégé Success Story The Gown Gallery & Hallmark, Inc.

## Sharon Miller The Gown Gallery Biography

Sharon Miller is the President and owner of The Gown Gallery. The Gown Gallery, celebrating 20 years of style, is Kansas City's leading bridal and formal wear boutique. The Gown Gallery flaunts a wide and ever changing collection of couture bridal, and designer evening gowns and accessories. For more information visit [www.gowngallery.com](http://www.gowngallery.com).

## Julie Lonergan Biography

Lonergan has twenty years of experience in financial planning and inventory management in specialty and department stores. She's been with **Hallmark Cards, Inc.** for 10 years working in the retail division, managing financial planning and inventory management. Prior to Hallmark Cards, Lonergan worked for Talbot's and Uptons Department Stores.

## Hallmark Cards, Inc. Biography

Hallmark makes the world a more caring place by helping people express what's in their hearts and spend time together — a privilege few other companies in the world enjoy. Hallmark greeting cards and other products are found in more than 40,000 retail outlets in the United States, including the network of flagship Hallmark Gold Crown® stores. Worldwide, Hallmark offers products in more than 30 languages available in 100 countries. This privately held company is based in Kansas City, Mo., and in its 100th year is lead by the third generation of the founding Hall family. Visit <http://corporate.hallmark.com> for more details.

Throughout the mentorship program, Julie Lonergan and Sharon Miller bounced ideas off one another and worked through a variety of issues. Since Julie is employed with Hallmark, she was able to connect with experts in a variety of areas throughout the corporation. Julie said "working for Hallmark, I was able to tap into resources with an area of expertise that I didn't have. For example, when Sharon was working on store design and the build process for her new location I brought her into Hallmark to meet with the individual who manages this type of work for the Hallmark Crown Center. That individual was able to provide some guidance and questions to ask of her contractor."

Since the mentorship, The Gown Gallery has a financial roadmap to guide business, they have seen significant growth including moving to a new location at 19th and Main and the business is working towards a second location a little further north on 9th Street in Kansas City.



In this photo listed (l-r): Consuella McCain-Nunnally, Director, Minority Business Alliance/POWER; Sharon Miller, (Mentee) President, The Gown Gallery; Edward F. Honesty, Jr., Chairman, Minority Business Alliance/POWER and President, Best Harvest Bakeries; and Julie Lonergan, (Mentor) Purchasing Manager, Hallmark Cards, Inc.

*"I can't tell you enough how much I got out of the HAJ Business Mentorship program and the changes I've seen in The Gown Gallery. I've grown as a leader and I've got a great friend out of it all. I would highly recommend business women to apply to the program as a mentor or to be mentored."*

*Julie Lonergan*

*Hallmark Cards, Inc.*

A special 'thank you' to Consuella McCain-Nunnally, Director of the Minority Business Alliance for connecting the Missouri Women's Council to the individuals featured in this story.



# Missouri Women Owned Business Success Story Featuring: Midway Electric, Inc.

## Midway Electric, Inc. Majority Owner: Michele Spry Columbia, MO

By Christopher Young

Michele Spry is the majority owner of Midway Electric, Inc., a small business in the heart of America where the customer is the number one priority.

"When we originally started out, there were two guys, a van and a small office inside a shop at our home," Michele said.

With a free-standing building, 11 employees and nine years of ownership, Midway Electric, Inc. is now at the helm of a quickly-growing company that was recently named the Columbia Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Small Business of the Year. The company also received a Small Business Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, given to 56 companies across the United States.

Combining their strengths, Michele manages the business operations as the company's president, while her husband brings the required electrical expertise and project management skills as the vice president. With a shared vision, the two focus on taking care of their customers and their employees.

"We do anything and everything we can to make the customer happy," said Michele, referring to their practice of providing their customers options, identifying immediate vs. long-term solutions and simply "treating people as you want to be treated."

### **Building Clientele by Setting Yourself Apart**

The key to Midway Electric, Inc.'s increasing customer base was determining its differentiating element – a commitment to customer service. Although there are many residential and commercial electrical companies, Michele feels none of them offer customer service similar to Midway Electric, Inc. They provide their cell phone numbers to their customers and tell them to call them any day, any time.



As Midway Electric, Inc. became more successful, Michele became the company's brand by volunteering in the community, networking with the industry and making key contacts.



Rather than spending money on vast print or broadcast advertising activities, Midway Electric, Inc. relies on word-of-mouth of satisfied customers, their telephone directory advertisements, and strong name recognition through participation in community events.

### **Moving Forward**

Midway Electric, Inc. keeps growing but never forgets its roots. "We realize we are a small business," Michele said highlighting that certain things work for larger companies that won't work for small businesses.

"You have to figure out new ways to do old business," said Michele, who most recently launched a fan page on Facebook to complement their value-oriented Web site.

Additionally, through participation in the Small Business of the Year contest, the Sprys learned techniques and ideas from fellow finalists. The networking and researching about new trends in the electrical profession for small business owners is important, Michele said.





## Michele Spry's Tips for Starting a Business



**Michele Spry, President  
Midway Electric, Inc.**

**Brandon Spry, Vice-President  
Midway Electric, Inc.**



Know a Missouri women owned business that should be featured in the Women's Edition?

If so, the Missouri Women's Council would appreciate your recommendation.

Call us at (877) 426-9284 or email us at [wcouncil@ded.mo.gov](mailto:wcouncil@ded.mo.gov)

### Here are Michele's five tips for starting a business:

1. **Create a business plan.** Think about your niche market, your employees, and the timeline. Are you going to still love what you are doing 20 years from now?
2. **Search to find the best banker, accountant and attorney.** Ask other business owners for recommendations, and do your own research. These three people are going to know everything about your business so you must trust them.
3. **Get involved in organizations and your community.** Seek opportunities that match your interests and will mutually benefit your business. Your local Chamber of Commerce is a great place to start.
4. **Surround yourself with positive people.** Of course you want to hear good things, but you also need constructive criticism so you can modify and expand your business.
5. **Never give up!** Every business goes through difficult times and you might ask "Why did I do this?" You did it because it was your dream. Business owners learn something everyday and must be receptive to change. There is no manual for owning your own business – be creative, adopt a positive attitude and get the right people on your team!



# Business Trainings and Job Fairs

**July 13th, 2010**

**FastTrac® NewVenture™ for Dislocated Workers**

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 13th, 2010**

**Starting a Small Business: The First Steps**

Location: Mexico

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 13th, 2010**

**National Guard Armory**

**Job Fair**

Location: Jefferson City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 13th, 2010**

**Starting a Small Business: The First Steps**

Location: Sedalia

[Click Here for more information](#)



**July 13th –14th, 2010**

**2010 NAACP National Convention**

**Diversity Career Fair**

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 14th, 2010**

**Selling to the Government—PTAC**

Location: Ft. Leonard Wood

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 14th, 2010**

**Understanding Financial Statements**

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 14th, 2010**

**Building the Ultimate Business Plan**

Location: Springfield

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 15, 2010**

**Winning Government Contracts: The First Steps**

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 15th, 2010**

**Starting a Small Business: The First Steps**

Location: Jefferson City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 16th, 2010**

**Starting and Managing a Business**

Location: Lees Summit

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 20th, 2010**

**Winning Government Contracts—The First Steps**

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)





# Business Trainings and Job Fairs

**July 20th, 2010**

**The Basics of Writing a Business Plan**

Location: Sedalia

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 21st, 2010**

**Quickbooks for Your Business**

Location: Springfield

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 22nd, 2010**

**JOBNews/Job Fairs**

Location: North Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 22nd, 2010**

**SBA Loans: Keys to Your Financial Success**

Location: Hillsboro

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 22nd, 2010**

**How to Place Your Business on the Web**

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 22nd, 2010**

**The Basics of Writing a Business Plan**

Location: Jefferson City

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 27th, 2010**

**Selling to the Government**

Location: Springfield

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 27th, 2010**

**Starting a Business: The First Steps**

Location: Saint Peters

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 29th, 2010**

**The Basics of Writing a Business Plan**

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

**July 29th, 2010**

**National Guard Armory**

**Job Fair**

Location: Ft. Leonard Wood

[Click Here for more information](#)

**August 11th, 2010**

**Missouri Business Tax Training Seminar**

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

**August 11th, 2010**

**Missouri Business Tax Training Seminar**

Location: St. Louis

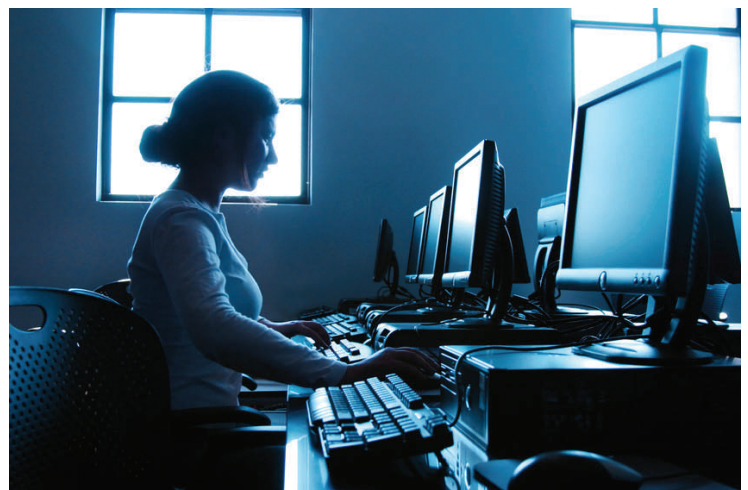
[Click Here for more information](#)

**August 12th, 2010**

**Missouri Business Tax Training Seminar**

Location: Springfield

[Click Here for more information](#)





## In Every Issue

# Business Resources



### **Missouri Business Portal**

An online resource as a single point of entry for business registration, filings, licenses, and permits for doing business in the State of Missouri.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **Missouri Business Development Programs**

The Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Center (MO SBTDC) successfully assists more than 10,000 businesses with business start-up and training workshops. Visit

[www.missouribusiness.net](http://www.missouribusiness.net).

### **Missouri Catalog of State Assistance Programs**

Provides detailed information about state grants, loans and assistance programs and how to apply for them.

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **Missouri Department of Economic Development Programs for Business**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development offers a listing of programs for businesses. For a full listing, please [click here](#).

### **Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Centers (MEBAC)**

MEBAC's mission is to help small businesses enhance productivity, expand production, increase sales and improve profitability. Visit [www.missourienterprise.org](http://www.missourienterprise.org) or call toll free at (800) 956-2682.

### **Missouri Linked Deposit Program**

The Big Missouri Linked Deposit Program is administered through the state treasurer's office to enable financial institutions to make low-cost loans to businesses and farms to create jobs and help Missouri's economy grow. Visit

[www.treasurer.mo.gov/LinkedDeposit.asp](http://www.treasurer.mo.gov/LinkedDeposit.asp).

### **MOSourceLink**

MOSourceLink connects small business owners with a network of nonprofit resource organizations that provide business-building services.

Visit [www.mosourcelink.com](http://www.mosourcelink.com) or call toll-free at (866) 870-6500.

### **Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)**

MO PTAC's mission is to assist businesses—including small, disadvantaged and women owned firms—in obtaining federal, state and local government contracts. Visit [www.missouribusiness.net/PTAC](http://www.missouribusiness.net/PTAC)

### **Missouri Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board (SBRFB)**

The SBRFB provides a key interface between state regulatory agencies and affected small businesses. For more information, please [click here](#).

### **Missouri Small Business and Technology Assistance Centers (MO SBTDC)**

MO SBTDC is focused on strengthening the technological competitiveness of Missouri's businesses. Visit

[www.missouribusiness.net/fast](http://www.missouribusiness.net/fast).

### **Missouri Women's Council**

Provides information and resources regarding business, education and career development to Missouri's women. Visit

[www.womenscouncil.org](http://www.womenscouncil.org) or call toll free at (877) 426-9284.

### **MoFAST: SBIR/STTR Program**

Help for entrepreneurs and small businesses seeking federal funding for technology and life sciences businesses, products, research and development. [Visit www.mofast.net](http://www.mofast.net).

### **Office of Administration—Office of Supplier and Workforce Diversity (OSWD)**

OSWD's mission works to assist women and minorities in developing opportunities to contract with the state, economically empowering traditionally underserved communities and improving the overall fiscal vitality of the State of Missouri. Visit [www.oa.mo.gov/oswd](http://www.oa.mo.gov/oswd) or call toll free (877) 259-2963.

### **SBA— Small Business Administration**

The SBA links entrepreneurs with resources, services and support specifically designed for small business needs. [Visit www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call toll free at (800) U ASK SBA.





In Every Issue-

# Women's Resources

## **National Association of Women Business Owners**

NAWBO is a dues-based national organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs in all industries. Membership is open to sole proprietors, partners and corporate owners with day-to-day management responsibility.

Phone: (800) 556-2926

Website: [www.nawbo.org](http://www.nawbo.org)

## **National Women's Business Council**

The Council's mission is to promote initiatives, policies and programs designed to support women's business enterprises at all stages of development in the public and private sector marketplaces, from start-up to success to significance.

Website: [www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov)

## **eWomenNetwork, Inc.**

eWomenNetwork, Inc. is committed to helping women and their businesses achieve, succeed and thrive in the new economy. Their goal is to help female business owners and professionals achieve their goals.

Website: [www.eWomenNetwork.com](http://www.eWomenNetwork.com)

## **Women Impacting Public Policy, Inc. (WIPP)**

A national nonpartisan public policy organization that advocates for and on behalf of women and minorities in business in the legislative process of our nation, creating economic opportunities and building bridges and alliances to other small business organizations.

Website: [www.wipp.org](http://www.wipp.org)

## **Career Education Coordinators**

Network of professionals focusing on nontraditional careers as well as providing information and expertise in career awareness, exploration and planning for various audiences.

Website: [www.missouricareereducation.org](http://www.missouricareereducation.org)

## **Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)**

Dedicated to advancing the success of Corporate Members, certified women's business enterprises, and government entities in partnership with its Regional Partner Organizations (RPOs)

Website: [www.wbenc.org](http://www.wbenc.org)

## **Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network**

The Missouri Women's Council recognizes that often times women in business and workforce may encounter barriers accessing quality child care. This organization coordinates the activities of the eight child care resource and referral agencies that serve all 115 counties in Missouri.

Website: [www.mocccrn.org](http://www.mocccrn.org)

## **Women's Business Development Center**

The largest women's business assistance center in the United States. Nationally and internationally recognized for responsive, innovative, and effective programs and advocacy efforts. Delivers business services and financial assistance to empower women towards entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency.

Website: [www.wbdc.org](http://www.wbdc.org)



## **Caring Communities**

A "partnership" that enables community and school leaders to define priorities and agendas based on each community's needs, assets and vision. By developing community-based supports and services, the aim is to enhance the well-being of children, which is inseparable from the well-being of their families and the stability and economic viability of the communities where they live.

Website: [www.mofact.org](http://www.mofact.org)

## **WPO Women Presidents' Organization**

The WPO is a non-profit membership organization for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. Members of the WPO take part in professionally facilitated peer advisory groups in order to coax the 'genius out of the group' and grow their businesses to the next level.

Website: [www.womenpresidentsorg.com](http://www.womenpresidentsorg.com)

## **Missouri Career Centers**

Located in communities across the state and represent a unique partnership of employment and training organizations that reflect the specific needs in each local community. These resource areas are equipped with computers, fax machines, and telephones that operate similarly to a public library.

Website: [www.greathires.org](http://www.greathires.org)





# Upcoming Events, Programs and Awards

## 101st NAACP Annual Convention

One Nation, One Dream

July 10th-15th, 2010

Kansas City

<http://www.naacp.org/events/convention/101st/index.htm>

## The 6th Annual National Veteran Small Business Expo

July 19th-22nd, 2010

Las Vegas, NV

<http://expo.nationalveteransconference.com/>

## 2010 NACW 40th Annual Conference

Capital Opportunities for America's Women and Girls

July 22nd-25th, 2010

Rockville, Maryland

<http://www.nacw.org/>

## Kansas City's 4th Annual Government and Contracting & Procurement

Hyatt Regency Crown Center

2345 McGee, Kansas City, MO

August 5, 2010

<http://www.kcgcp.org/>

## St. Louis Business Journal

## Most Influential Business Women Awards Luncheon

August 13th, 2010

Renaissance Grand Hotel

800 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO

<http://stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/calendar/>

## 52nd Annual Governor's Conference on Economic Development

September 15-17, 2010

Hyatt Regency Crown Center

2345 McGee, Kansas City, MO

[www.ded.mo.gov](http://www.ded.mo.gov)



## 2010 Award of Distinction

### Missouri Women's Council

Each year, the Missouri Women's Council solicits nominations of individuals and/or organizations that have made a significant impact upon women and their families. Many outstanding individuals and organizations have helped shape Missouri and continue to contribute their talents and skills to improve and enhance the quality of life in the State. The Council has established the Award of Distinction to recognize, honor, and celebrate these achievements. The award will be presented at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development September 2010. The application deadline has been extended to **Friday, July 16th, 2010**. For more details, please [click here](#).



## AHEAD Adele Hall Endowment for Advancement and Development

AHEAD is a Central Exchange of Kansas City, MO endowment fund established in honor of 2000 Woman of the Year and originating member, Adele Hall.

AHEAD enables The Central Exchange to broaden its membership base, reaching women who may not otherwise have the resources to join. Through Central Exchange programs and connections, AHEAD members discover new ways to get ahead in their jobs and in the community.

As a self-directed group, AHEAD participants are committed to taking full advantage of the professional and personal development opportunities offered by The Central Exchange.

If you know of someone who would be interested in applying for the AHEAD program or would like more information please visit [www.centralexchange.org](http://www.centralexchange.org) or contact 816.471.7560. Applications are due by **Friday, July, 16, 2010**.



# Missouri Women's Council



The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of women in Missouri.

The first name of the council was the Missouri Council on Women's Economic Development and Training (MCWEDT). The name was changed to the Missouri Women's Council in 1994.

It is the intent of the Missouri Women's Council to work closely with other agencies and community-based organizations to build awareness, educate, promote opportunities for, and enhance the lives and well being of Missouri women business owners and women in the workforce.

The Missouri Women's Council offers information and resources on starting your Own Business, Women in Business, Finding a Great Job, Upgrading Your Skills, and Obtaining State Contracts.

The Council is an agency within the Department of Economic Development. The bipartisan Council is comprised of 15 members: 11 appointed by the Governor, 2 Missouri State Senators, and 2 Missouri State Representatives with the chair appointed by the governor. An Executive Directors is appointed to serve the Missouri Women's Council and the women of Missouri.

**Follow us on Twitter!**

@MOWomensCouncil



## Missouri Women's Council Outstanding Women of Missouri Traveling Exhibit

The Outstanding Women of Missouri Traveling Exhibit, which started in 2002, recognizes Missouri Women whose fortitude, persistence, and judgment led them to distinguish themselves in their chosen profession or areas of service. The traveling history exhibit honors these individuals by displaying an image of each woman, as well as featuring their accomplishments and their story. The traveling exhibit is available for loan at no charge through the Missouri Women's Council. Please [click here](#) for more information.



# Missouri Women's Council

## Missouri Women's Council Board Members 2010

### Board Chair

Ms. Michelle J. Word, Kansas City

Ms. Janet M. Bandera, O'Fallon

Ms. Christine J. Bierman, St. Louis

Senator Norma Champion, Springfield

Ms. Melodee Colbert-Kean, Joplin

Ms. Jacqueline Coleman, Jefferson City

Senator Rita Days, St. Louis

Ms. Michelle Esswein, St. Louis

Mrs. Sarah Murray, Kansas City

Ms. Norma Nisbet, St. Louis

Representative Marilyn Ruestman, Joplin

Representative Rachel Storch, St. Louis

Ms. Karen Thornton, Sunrise Beach

Mrs. Valerie White, St. Charles

Ms. Donayle Whitmore-Smith, St. Louis

Lisa B. Althoff, Executive Director  
Missouri Women's Council

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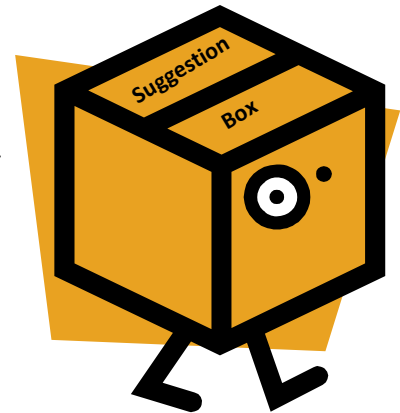
Toll Free: (877) 426-9284

Phone: (573) 751-0810

Fax: (573) 522-5005

Website: [www.womenscouncil.org](http://www.womenscouncil.org)

How can we serve  
you better?



The Missouri Women's Council welcomes  
your content suggestions for possible  
inclusion in future  
publications.

Kindly respond to  
[wcouncil@ded.mo.gov](mailto:wcouncil@ded.mo.gov)



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